

## REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claims 1-9 were in the application. Claims 5-8 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1-4 and 9 are pending consideration.

Responsive to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the specification has been amended.

Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

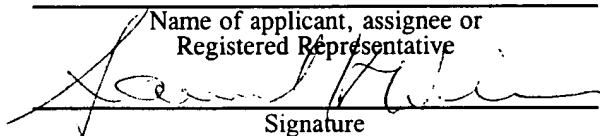
Responsive to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claim 1 has been amended and claims 5-8 have been cancelled without prejudice. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is requested.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akiyama et al., EP 0118921A2. Claim 1 provides that each diffusion has "a depth that is less than the thickness of said second layer whereby each diffusion is wholly contained within said second layer." Akiyama et al., however, show a plurality of diffusions that extend into the first layer and, therefore, have depths that go beyond the second layer, and are not wholly contained within the second layer. Akiyama et al. do not show or suggest containing the diffusions within the second layer. In fact, Akiyama et al. teach away from such a structure in that they require the diffusions to extend into the first layer in order to ensure that the breakdown voltage is primarily determined by the depletion layer between the junctions formed by the diffusions and the high resistance layer. See page 4, lines 21-29. Reconsideration of claim 1 is requested.

Claims 2-4 and 9 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, include its limitations. These claims include other limitations, which in combination with those of claim 1 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.


The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative  
  
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Signature  
February 4, 2002  
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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